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Applicant adds new claims 15-22. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Applicant amends claims 2-7 and 9-13 for clarification, and refers to page 13, lines 24-28 of the specification for an exemplary embodiment of and support for the claimed invention. Applicant adds new claims 15-22 incorporating features that correspond to those of claims 1-7 and 9 to round out the scope of the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-8 and 14, and the finding that claims 10-13 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant submits that, as demonstrated below, claim 9 is patentable. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner allow claims 10-13, which depend from claim 9.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,618,397 to Huang. Applicant amends claim 9 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited reference, and respectfully traverses the rejection.

Huang describes a group packet encapsulation system and method, including an encapsulation protocol between two gateways or host computers, to increase packet transmission performance by reducing packet framing overhead, and routing overhead and so on. Huang describes classifying IP addresses of nodes to group received packets and transferring an encapsulated grouped packet between two gateways. Huang does not disclose, however, a transmission source virtual private network identifier of a received packet corresponding to a receiving interface identifier of a receiving interface from which the received packet has been received being identified by a packet receiving unit of a packet relaying apparatus.

In other words, Huang, as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, does not disclose,

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“[a] packet relaying apparatus for transmitting a received packet to a next relaying apparatus in accordance with policy, comprising:

a packet receiving unit identifying a transmission source virtual private network identifier corresponding to a receiving interface identifier of a receiving interface from which the received packet has been received;

first means for managing relationship between each of one or more transmission source virtual private network identifiers and one or more transmission destination virtual private network identifiers;

second means for selecting one or more transmission destination virtual private network identifiers which are allowed to relay a received packet based on said transmission source virtual private network identifier identified by the packet receiving unit; and

third means for sending, to the second means, a transmission source virtual private network identifier depending on an instruction such as a command from a terminal and receiving one or more transmission destination virtual private network identifiers corresponding to the transmission source virtual private network identifier, and displaying, on the terminal, relationship between the transmission source virtual private network identifier and the one or more destination virtual private network identifiers,

wherein the received packet is transmitted to a next hop relaying apparatus of a transmission destination virtual private network allowed by the second means,” as recited in claim 9.
(Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over Huang for at least the foregoing reasons. New claims 15-22 incorporate features that correspond to those of claims 1-7, and those of claim 9 cited above, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-22 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

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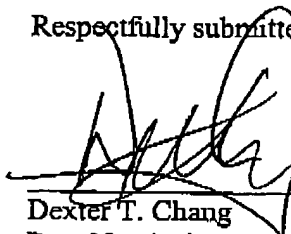
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Applicant appreciates the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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